

# CONSERVATION *Showcase*

## WHIP Used to Capitalize on Fly-Zone in Tome



TOME, NEW MEXICO - Andrew Hautzinger's small farm south of Tome and east of Los Lunas, New Mexico is in a major fly-zone for many migratory birds. On his farmstead he has observed a variety of water fowl including wood ducks and mallards – and ferruginous hawks, Cooper hawks, and Western tanagers. In his decision making process regarding the utilization of his resources, Hautzinger ultimately determined the conservation of the native and wildlife resources on his land could be enhanced - and bring value to him and those he wished to educate about the land.

Utilizing USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service program and his own ingenuity in developing backyard conservation, Hautzinger has created an oasis for wildlife, and is looking forward to opportunities in propagation of native plants. With funding through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Hautzinger has installed drip irrigation that is used for tree and shrub establishment and creation of a pond.

Hautzinger knows that good conservation also means good planning and monitoring. He keeps a diary of tree and shrub survival growth and wildlife sightings. He monitors which food-source species grow best.

The information Hautzinger has been gathering goes beyond personal help in his own decision-making. The NRCS office in Los Lunas is using the knowledge Hautzinger is communicating to make recommendations to others in the county who are seeking to enhance their resources. In addition he is using his farm for educational tours and any conservation tours that may benefit from such a visit.

Hautzinger has worked closely with the NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center in planting 35 species of trees and shrubs on his property, and he is considering growing a variety of native grasses.

From the bathhouse he has built for his property to over 600 trees, the Hautzinger farm truly exemplifies the kind of special place some of New Mexico's finest conservationists have created. Like Hautzinger, more New Mexicans are understanding the value of their wildlife resources and incorporating this value into their conservation planning.